

33. (new) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the apparatus comprises a multifunction device having a printer and scanner.

34. (new) The apparatus of claim 14, further comprising a processor, wherein the analyzer and border determiner are performed by the processor.

REMARKS

Applicant has now had an opportunity to carefully consider the Examiner's comments set forth in the Office Action of August 20, 2007. Claims 1-6, 8-19 and 21-34 are pending with claims 1 and 14 being independent claims. By this amendment, Applicant has amended claims 1, 8-12, 14, and 22-25, claims 7 and 20 have been cancelled and new claims 33 and 34 have been added. Support in the specification for new claims 33 and 34 may be found in paragraph 47. Support in the specification for the amendment to claims 1 and 14 may be found in paragraphs 25-27.

Claims 1-6, 8-19 and 21-34 remain in this application and are believed to be in proper condition for allowance. Review and reconsideration of the claims are respectfully requested.

Rejection of claims 1, 5-6, 7-9, 12, 14, 18-22, 25, 27, 29-30 and 32 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 1, 5-6, 7-9, 12, 14, 18-22, 25, 27, 29-30 and 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent No. 5,214,470 to Denber. In response, Applicant has amended claims 1 and 14 to more clearly distinguish the claims over Denber.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite a method including generating a tag containing information representing the result of a detected defect and determining a border of the target image region within the image scanning area, based upon the tag information. Applicant respectfully submits that Denber fails to show determining a border of a target image region,

much less such a border determination based upon information concerning a detected defect.

Claim 1 is believed to be unanticipated by Denber as a result.

Similarly, claim 14 as amended recites an apparatus including a tag generator for generating a tag for each section of an image scanning area having a detected defect, and a border determiner which determines a border of a target image region within the image scanning area based upon the generated tag. Applicant respectfully submits that Denber fails to disclose determining the border of the target image region of an image scanning area, much less performing such border determining based upon a generated tag. Claim 14 as amended is believed to be unanticipated by Denber.

Claim 8 as amended recites that the border determining ignores the section of the image scanning area as having a defect. Claim 21 as amended recites that the border determiner ignores the section of the image scanning area tagged as having a defect. Applicant respectfully submits that Denber fails to show determining borders of a target image region within an image scanning area, much less border determining that ignores information related to a detected defect. As a result, amended claims 8 and 21 are believe to be unanticipated by and allowable over Denber.

Claim 9 has been amended to recite autofitting the target image region to the image scanning area, based upon the border determination recited in claim 1. Claim 22 has been amended to recite an autofitter which autofits the target image area to the image scanning area based upon the border of the target image area determined as recited in claim 14. Applicant respectfully submits that Denber fails to show performing an autofitting operation, much less

performing autofitting as claimed. Claims 9 and 22 as amended are believed to be unanticipated by and allowable over Denber as a result.

Applicant additionally points out that neither US Patent 5,694,228 to Peairs nor US Patent 5,761,336 to Xu discloses nor suggests determining the target image borders, much less target image border determinations based upon tag information concerning a detected defect. As a result, claims 1, 14 and the claims which depend therefrom are believed to be allowable over Denber, Peairs and Xu.

Rejection of claims 2-4, 10-11, 15-17, 23-24, 28 and 31 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) based upon Denber in view of Peairs et al.

Claims 2-4, 10-11, 15-17, 23-24, 28 and 31 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being obvious based upon Denber in view of Peairs et al. US Patent 5,694,228. Applicant respectfully traverses such rejection based upon the following.

Claim 10 as amended recites cloning the target image region to produce multiple target images over the image scanning area, based upon determining a border of the target image region that ignores the section of the image scanning area tagged as having a defect. Relatedly, claim 23 as amended recites an image replicator which replicates the target image region to produce multiple target images over the image scanning area based upon the border of the target image region, wherein such border is determined by ignoring the section of the image scanning area having a defect.

Applicant respectfully submits that neither Denber nor Peairs shows or suggests image cloning and replication as claimed. In fact, neither reference relied upon in rejecting claims 10

and 23 even mentions image cloning or image replication.¹ Applicant respectfully submits that image cloning and replication as claimed advantageously avoids the situation in which the border of a target image region is incorrectly oversized prior to performing image cloning/replication. By ignoring detected defects when determining the border of the target image region, undesirable portions of the image scanning area outside of the target image region are not cloned/replicated. In an absence of any teaching or suggestion in Denber and Peairs of image cloning and replication as claimed, claims 10 and 23 are believed to be allowable.

Claim 11 as amended recites enlarging the target image region to fit across multiple image scanning areas, based upon the border (of the target image region) determination. Relatedly, amended claim 24 recites an image enlarger which enlarges the target image region to fit across multiple image scanning areas, based upon the border of the target image region. Applicant respectfully submits that neither Denber nor Peairs shows or suggest image enlargement, much less the particular image enlargement as claimed.² The invention of claims 11 and 24 advantageously avoids having undesirable portions of the image scanning area outside of the target image region from being included in the image that is enlarged, and serves to limit that which is enlarged to be solely the target image region. In an absence of any teaching or suggestion in Denber and Peairs of image enlargement as claimed in amended claims 11 and 24, such claims are believed to be allowable.

Rejection of claims 13 and 26 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) based upon Denber in view of Xu

¹ Contrary to the statement appearing in the final Office Action, Peairs does not mention image cloning/replication to produce multiple images over the image scanning area, between column 3, line 50 and column 4, line 2 of Peairs. Applicant further notes that claim 10 refers to cloning an image, not a clone copier.

² In contrast to the statement appearing in the final Office Action, Peairs does not mention image enlargement between column 3, line 50 and column 4, line 2.

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Applicant respectfully submits that claims 13 and 26, by virtue of depending upon independent claims 1 and 14, respectively, are believed to be allowable for the reasons presented above with respect to claims 1 and 14.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections, and that they be withdrawn. Applicant believes that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone or email the undersigned at the numbers provided.

Respectfully submitted,



William F. Esser
Reg. 38,053

Lexmark International, Inc.
740 West New Circle Road
Lexington, KY 40550
T: (859)232-3668
F: (859)232-7850